

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A continuous method of production of carbon nanotubes, comprising:

continuously providing substrate particles;

providing on the substrate particles a transition metal compound that is a nickel, iron or cobalt formate or oxalate which is decomposable to yield ~~the a~~ transition metal catalyst under a non-reducing atmosphere permitting carbon nanotube formation;

fluidizing the substrate particles with a flow of gaseous carbon source;

heating the transition metal formate or oxalate on the substrate particles;

before, during or after contacting the gaseous carbon source with the substrate particles, decomposing the transition metal formate or oxalate to yield the transition metal catalyst on the substrate particles by heating without reduction;

forming single walled carbon nanotubes by decomposition of the carbon source catalysed by the transition metal catalyst, wherein the catalyst is not pre-treated with hydrogen gas; and

collecting the single walled carbon nanoparticles formed by elution.

2.- 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is a hydrocarbon or carbon monoxide.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the gaseous carbon source is methane or acetylene.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is passed over the substrate particles.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is mixed with a diluent.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the diluent is argon.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate particles comprise oxide particles and/or silicate particles.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the substrate particles comprise one or more of silica, alumina, CaSiO_x , calcium oxide or magnesium oxide.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate particles are in the form of a fumed powder, a colloid, a gel or an aerogel.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 15 Claim 1, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating to a temperature between 200°C and 1000°C.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating to a temperature between 600°C and 1000°C.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the an initial step of impregnating the substrate particles with the transition metal compound.

21.-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, comprising: continuously providing substrate particles to an upper part of an inclined surface; contacting the substrate particles on the inclined surface with a flow of gaseous carbon source; heating the transition metal compound on the substrate particles; and collecting single walled carbon nanotubes formed from a lower part of the inclined surface.

24. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein heating the transition metal compound on the substrate particles to decompose the transition metal compound to the transition metal catalyst occurs before contacting the substrate particles with the flow of gaseous carbon source.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the transition metal compound is nickel formate and the substrate particles are silica particles.

26. (Cancelled)